United States Department of Agriculture

Office of Public Affairs

Selected Speeches and News Releases

May 7 - May 13, 1992

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USDA PROPOSES TO ADD BOSTON TO APPROVED LIST FOR EXPORTING MINIATURE SWINE

WASHINGTON, May 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing to designate Boston, Mass., as an approved port of embarkation for miniature swine.

Under the proposal, Logan International Airport in Boston would be added to the list of approved export inspection facilities for miniature swine. Exporters of other animals in Massachusetts would continue to transport their animals through John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

"The facilities at Logan International Airport are suitable for inspecting, holding, feeding and watering miniature swine," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator for veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "The small size of these animals makes it possible to inspect them in their shipping containers."

According to Johnson, Logan International Airport does not have the proper facilities to inspect large animals. However, Logan does meet APHIS's standards for equipment, size, access, testing and treatment, disposal, lighting, and cleaning and disinfection facilities with regard to miniature swine.

The proposal will be published in today's Federal Register. Written comments will be considered if they are received on or before July 6. An original and three copies referring to docket 91-134 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments may be inspected as soon as received at USDA, Rm. 1141-S, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Alan Zagier (301) 436-7255

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FOREST SERVICE TEAM TO SEEK IMPROVEMENTS IN SALMON HABITAT

WASHINGTON, May 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service has established a team of scientists and fisheries specialists to develop new measures for improving salmon and steelhead habitats on National Forest System lands throughout the western United States, including Alaska.

"Native salmon are important to the United States," FS Chief Dale Robertson said. "This team is going to bolster and enhance our efforts to protect salmon habitat."

Robertson said the team will work with federal agencies, state authorities and special interest groups during its study, which will focus on, among other things: 1) current fish habitat management; 2) methods and recommendations for additional management measures for improving habitat and protecting salmon populations; 3) evaluation of the economic and social effects of any proposed additional measures.

Robertson said Associate Deputy Chiefs Eldon Ross and David Unger will oversee the project. FS Pacific Northwest station fisheries scientists Jim Sedell and Fred Everest, Pacific Northwest Deputy Regional Forester John Lowe and FS Wildlife and Fisheries Assistant Director Phil Janik will lead the team of scientists and fisheries specialists.

"We manage a lot of habitat important to salmon and steelhead production," Robertson said. "Much of that habitat is in great shape. Where it is not, we are going to do everything we can to improve it."

The Forest Service has been actively managing salmon and steelhead habitats for many years. The agency's $29-million anadromous (marine fish that breed in fresh water) fisheries budget includes habitat protection, restoring spawning and rearing habitat, building fish ladders for migrating fish, and research to increase understanding of fish habitat needs.

Robertson said additional measures are needed because of declining numbers of many salmon and steelhead stocks, and new information suggesting further protection and restoration of fish habitat on the national forests are important to help conserve some of the stocks.

Robertson said the team will coordinate its recommendations with the fish habitat improvement efforts already under way for the Columbia River basin.

Of more than 400 naturally reproducing salmon and steelhead stocks in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and California recently evaluated by the American Fisheries Society, 159 were judged to have high or moderate risk of extinction and another 54 were of special concern. According to the American Fisheries Society, the stocks are diminishing due to a combination of hydroelectric development and operations, fish harvest, naturally reproducing stocks mixing with hatchery fish, and habitat deterioration.

Len Carey (202) 205-1782

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EXTENSION SERVICE AWARDS GRANTS FOR FARMERS WITH DISABILITIES

WASHINGTON, May 7—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Extension Service has awarded 12 "AgrAbility Project" grants totalling nearly $1.5 million to 14 states to fund new and existing education and technical assistance programs for farmers with disabilities.

"The project's name reflects our goal of helping agricultural workers with disabilities improve their capabilities in farming and ranching," said Dr. Myron Johnsrud, administrator of USDA's Extension Service.

Grants were awarded to existing state and regional programs in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, New York, Wisconsin, Montana and Idaho, and Vermont and New Hampshire.

Under the grant to Indiana, Purdue University's Breaking New Ground Resource Center and the National Easter Seal Society will cooperate in a partnership to provide training and technical assistance and to disseminate information on farming with disabilities.

Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Carolina each received grants to establish state programs. The AgrAbility Project enables Extension agents and other agricultural and health professionals to identify farmers with disabilities and provide technical assistance to them in adapting to and using modified farm equipment and tools.

The project also provides education to farmers, health professionals and the public-at-large on successful farming for persons with disabilities, and on preventing further injuries to agricultural workers with disabilities.

The program, established under provisions of the 1990 Farm Bill, was initially funded in fiscal 1991.

For additional information contact Brad Rein, Extension Service-U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 720-5285.

Charles Morgan (202) 690-3656

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USDA ANNOUNCES PROGRESS IN PSEUDORABIES ERADICATION EFFORTS

WASHINGTON, May 8—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has advanced Missouri to Stage II and Hawaii to Stage IV in its eradication program for pseudorabies, a disease of swine and other livestock.

''Currently, all 50 states plus Puerto Rico are actively involved in the eradication process,'' said Dr. Billy Johnson, deputy administrator for veterinary services with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. ''Cooperation from the states and the swine industry has made the success of this program possible.''

Pseudorabies is a contagious livestock disease that is most prevalent in swine. It often causes death in newborn pigs, but older hogs may survive the infection and remain carriers of the virus for life. Stress or other conditions can reactivate the virus.

States can advance from Stage I, preparation, to Stage V, which signifies pseudorabies-free status. Stage II is control, Stage III is mandatory herd clean-up, and Stage IV is surveillance to ensure no infection remains. Stage V is achieved when a state completes one year in Stage IV without finding an infected herd.

Changes in status are recommended to USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service by the National Pseudorabies Control Board, a six-member committee with equal representation from the Livestock Conservation Institute, the National Pork Producers Council and the U.S. Animal Health Association.

Pseudorabies, sometimes called Aujeszky's disease or mad itch, also affects cattle, sheep, dogs, cats and other animals. In these species, it usually causes a quick death. The disease does not affect humans.

At present, 10 states and Puerto Rico are in Stage I; 16 are in Stage II; three are in combination Stage II-III; 14 are in Stage III; six are in Stage IV; and one state—Maine—is pseudorabies free.

Alan Zagier (301) 436-7255

#

USDA TO DISTRIBUTE CHILD NUTRITION GUIDE

WASHINGTON, May 11—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today said 350,000 copies of a new guide for child nutrition programs are being distributed nationwide to schools, child care providers and summer program sponsors.

"This publication gives practical guidance to help food service professionals provide sound nutrition to America's children," Madigan said. "Among other things, it looks at innovative ways to implement the recommendations of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans in the nation's child nutrition programs."

One section of the 61-page "Nutrition Guidance for Child Nutrition Programs" illustrates simple "Menu Makeovers" that can transform a "typical" school lunch meal into one that reflects the Dietary Guidelines. Another section includes a nutrition quiz.

"Last September, I made a promise to the children of America," Madigan said. "I pledged that by 1994 their school food service staffs would have the tools they need to put the Dietary Guidelines' recommendations to work in America's school cafeterias."

The new guide is the first of a series of materials to help improve the nation's child nutrition programs, Madigan said.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, which oversees USDA's domestic food assistance programs, produced the publication. It will be used by the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Summer Food Service Program. The book will serve as a basis for revisions of the USDA meal patterns and menu planning guides.

Darlene Barnes (703) 305-2286

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ADMINISTRATION TO REVIEW USDA FIELD STRUCTURE

WASHINGTON, May 11—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan and Director of the Office of Management and Budget Richard Darman announced today the formation of a joint "SWAT Team" to review the Department of Agriculture's field structure.

The review will determine whether current USDA field structure is both effective and efficient in administering programs that serve the nation's agricultural communities and manage the nation's forests, the officials said.

Secretary Madigan had initiated a review of the field structure in March. Given the complexity and diversity of the field organization and the systems serving that organization, the secretary asked the director of OMB to draw on OMB's management expertise to assist the Department in the review.

The secretary's initial review concluded that:

- The field structure for major USDA agencies is fragmented and inefficient. USDA clients, who wish to receive a variety of services, are forced to visit and provide the same information to multiple USDA agencies and offices (4 or 5 separate offices may exist in a single county). Many USDA offices are so small, or have such a light workload that their continued existence requires investigation.
- USDA's efforts to collocate offices do not mean that services have been fully integrated or that there is full sharing of resources.
- Central information and control systems, essential to managing effectively a highly decentralized and functionally organized department, are inadequate. A strong USDA oversight system is lacking to monitor existing agency systems. Lack of systems compatibility impedes providing USDA clientele with the full benefits of automated technology.

USDA is the fourth largest federal agency in terms of spending, with annual outlays of approximately $60 billion (60 percent for food assistance programs; and 20 percent for discretionary programs including conservation and marketing programs). It is the sixth largest federal department in terms of employees (111,000). It serves a clientele that ranges from farmers and foresters to consumers to those who receive Food Stamps and surplus agricultural products. Nearly 70 percent of

USDA's workforce is assigned to functions not directly related to "traditional" farm programs.

USDA's current field structure was originally designed to serve the needs of the United States in the 1930's. Many, within and outside USDA, believe that it is now time to re-examine the efficiency and effectiveness of this field structure. USDA has nine subcabinet offices, 42 constitutent agencies, 250 separate programs, and thousands of field offices. The field structure includes at least one office in essentially every one of the nation's 3,076 counties.

In recent years, USDA has made substantial progress in streamling its field structure through collocation (of offices of two or more USDA agencies) and consolidation (of offices of a single agency). However, a full across-the-board review had yet to be undertaken.

This review will employ a team of experts from USDA and OMB. The team will examine current systems, workload, and overhead. The Secretary has also asked for advice from State Directors of various farm service programs.

The USDA-OMB "SWAT" Team is part of a series of management improvement efforts which the Bush Administration initiated in 1989. Thirty joint teams have addressed management problems in 20 Departments and agencies (including the Departments of Education, Interior, and Health and Human Services; the Internal Revenue Service; the Agency for International Development; and the Small Business Administration).

USDA: Roger Runningen (202) 720-4623
OMB: Meg Brackney (202) 395-3080

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USDA PROTECTS 30 NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, May 11—The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 30 new varieties of seedreproduced plants including garden bean, Kentucky bluegrass, carrot, corn, red fescue, lettuce, pea, rape, soybean and tomato.

Kenneth H. Evans, with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for 18 years. USDA grants certificates of protection after reviewing of breeders'

records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

—the Opus variety of garden bean, developed by the Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;

—the Jade variety of garden bean, developed by the Rogers NK Seed Co., Boise, Idaho;

—the Minstrel and Cocktail varieties of Kentucky bluegrass, developed by D.J. van der Have B.V., Rilland, The Netherlands;—the Texas Gold Spike variety of carrot, developed by the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, College Station, Texas;—the 1538 variety of corn, developed by United AgriSeeds Inc., Champaign, Ill.;

—the 29MIBZ2 variety of corn, developed by DeKalb Plant Genetics, DeKalb, Ill.;

—the Cindy and Claudia varieties of red fescue, developed by Cebeco Zaden B.V., Rotterdam, The Netherlands;

—the Molate Blue variety of red fescue, developed by James M. Stewart Inc. aka ConservaSeed, Rio Vista, Calif.;

—the Snowbird variety of lettuce, developed by the Ferry-Morse Seed Co., San Juan Bautista, Calif.;

—the Target and Bulls Eye varieties of lettuce, developed by Arthur Yates & Co. Pty. Ltd., Narromine, N.S.W., Australia;—the Clemente and Del Rey varieties of lettuce, developed by Royal Sluis B.V., Salinas, Calif.;

—the Western Red Leaf variety of lettuce, developed by the Brinker Orsetti Seed Co. Inc., Hollister, Calif.;

—the Quantum variety of pea, developed by the Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;

—the Dignity variety of pea, developed by Crites-Moscow Growers Inc., Moscow, Idaho;

—the Cobra variety of rape, developed by Calgene Inc., Davis, Calif., and King Agro, Blissfield, Mich.;

—the FFR 398 and FFR 464 varieties of soybean, developed by the FFR Cooperative, West Lafayette, Ind.;

—the Kenwood and Marcus varieties of soybean, developed by the Iowa Agriculture and Home Economics Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa;

—the A4715 and A2427 varieties of soybean, developed by the Asgrow Seed Co., Kalamazoo, Mich.;

—the S43-34 and S83-30 varieties of soybean, developed by the Northrup King Co., Minneapolis, Minn.;

—the Delsoy 4500 variety of soybean, developed by the Curators of the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.; and—the Florida 7060 and Florida 7171 varieties of tomato, developed by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville, Fla.

The certificates of protection for the Cindy and Claudia red fescue varieties and the Kenwood, Marcus and Delsoy 4500 soybean varieties are being issued to be sold by variety name only as a class of certified seed, and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service administers the plant variety protection program which provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.

Rebecca Unkenholz (202) 720-8998

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USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED RECORDKEEPING FOR RESTRICTED PESTICIDES

WASHINGTON, May 11—The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking comments on a proposal to require recordkeeping by anyone using "restricted use" pesticides. These are pesticides that, under federal law, may only be applied by those trained in their use by state pesticide regulatory agencies.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) requires appliers of restricted use pesticides to receive the special training before being certified as legal applicators of these pesticides.

All restricted use pesticides are registered with the Environmental Protection Agency. The 1990 Farm Bill authorized USDA to design and implement the recordkeeping program for these pesticides, Haley said.

The recordkeeping program would apply to those using or supervising the use of any restricted use pesticide in agricultural production.

Proposed data to be recorded include:

—address and size of treated area;

—target pest and crop or stored product treated;
—brand or product name, formulation and EPA registration number;
—total amount and rate of application;
—month, day and year treated; and
—applicator's name, address and certification number (if available).

Records compiled under this program would form a data base for environmental surveys by federal and state agencies, and would be used by USDA and EPA for annual reports to Congress on the use of these pesticides, Haley said.

The 1990 Farm Bill limits access to data gathered under the program. Access would be available through USDA or the state agencies USDA designated as eligible to gather the data. Access also would be available to licensed health care professionals providing medical treatment to patients exposed to restricted use pesticides.

Also proposed is enforcement of the recordkeeping program through cooperative agreements between USDA and state pesticide regulatory agencies. Violators would incur civil penalties of not more than $500 for the first violation and a minimum of $1000 for additional violations. An administrative appeal process would be available.

Details of the pesticide registration program will appear as a proposed rule in the May 12 Federal Register. Written comments should be received on or before Aug. 10. Send comments to Alan Post, Docket Manager, Science Division, AMS, USDA, Rm. 3064-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

Copies of the Federal Register announcement and additional information are available form Bonnie Poli, Chief, Pesticide Records Branch, Science Division, AMS, Suite 200, 8700 Centreville Rd., Manassas, Va.; telephone (703) 330-7826.

Clarence Steinberg (202) 720-6179

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PRELIMINARY TOBACCO REFERENDUM RESULTS

WASHINGTON, May 11—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today preliminary results of referenda held in March among growers of various kinds of tobacco to determine whether to have marketing quotas and price support in effect for the 1992, 1993 and 1994 marketing years. A vote of at least two-thirds in favor is necessary to approve marketing quotas.

Growers of Puerto Rican cigar filler (type 46), Pennsylvania growers of cigar filler (type 41), Connecticut and Massachusetts growers of cigar binder (types 51 and 52), and Maryland growers of type 32 all voted against quotas and price support for marketing years 1992, 1993 and 1994. Virginia growers of sun-cured (type 37) voted to approve quotas and price support.

This is the first year that quotas have not been approved in Puerto Rico. Quotas have not been approved in Maryland since 1965, in Connecticut and Massachusetts since 1983. Pennsylvania growers have never approved quotas while Virginia growers have always voted in favor of quotas.

The results are:

STATE	YES	NO	TOTAL	PERCENT YES
Cigar Binder Tobacco, Types 51 and 52				
Connecticut	1	25	26	3.8
Massachusetts	2	16	18	11.1
Cigar Filler Tobacco, Type 41				
Pennsylvania	15	310	325	4.6
Maryland Tobacco, Type 32				
Maryland	51	370	421	12.1
Pennsylvania	4	258	262	1.5
Virginia	0	3	3	0
Virginia Sun-Cured, Type 37				
Virginia	46	2	48	95.8
Puerto Rican Cigar Filler, Type 46				
Puerto Rico	6	6	12	50

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

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USDA ANNOUNCES SUPPORT LEVEL, BY TYPE, FOR 1992 PEANUTS

WASHINGTON, May 11—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the average support levels by type, quality and location for the 1992 peanut crop.

The figures are based on national price support levels of $674.93 per short ton for quota peanuts and $131.09 per short ton for additional peanuts.

The quota support level by type for an average grade ton of 1992-crop peanuts will be:

— $670.03 for Virginia-type peanuts;
— $679.31 for Runner-type peanuts;
— $630.83 for Spanish-type peanuts;
— $670.03 for Valencia-type peanuts from the Southwest area which are suitable for cleaning and roasting; and
— $630.83 for other Valencias.

The method of computing the price support levels for 1992-crop peanuts and the grades within the types is the same as last year. However, the basic formula is changed to eliminate the $0.35 per ton that, in previous years, was added to the national average quota support to compensate for damage to peanuts that resulted from use of the pneumatic sampler. The $0.35 addition is eliminated because the damage caused by the pneumatic sampler is no longer adversely impacting the establishment of differentials.

For each percent of sound mature kernels in a ton, including sound split kernels, the support level will be:

— Virginia-type peanuts, $9.846;
— Runner-type peanuts, $9.653;
— Spanish-type peanuts, $9.605;
— Valencia-type peanuts in the Southwest area which are suitable for cleaning and roasting, and other Valencias, $9.605.

The loan value for additional peanuts is 19.42 percent of the applicable quota support level. The factor represents the ratio of the $131.09 per short ton national support level for additional peanuts to the $674.93 per short ton national support level for quota peanuts.

As with the 1991-crop, the price support level for 1992-crop peanuts on which a growth regulator was used will be discounted by 100 percent from the price support level that otherwise would be applicable.

The actual price support level for an individual lot of peanuts will depend on the percent of the various sizes of kernels in each ton of peanuts and other factors.

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

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USDA SURVEY CONFIRMS SIGNIFICANT CATTLE LOSSES TO PREDATORS

WASHINGTON, May 12—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service today reported that producers and farmers lost 106,000 head of cattle and calves, worth $41.5 million, to predators during 1991.

According to findings compiled by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, coyotes were responsible for 62 percent of the total cattle and calf losses. Dogs, wolves, bears, mountain lions, bobcats and other animals accounted for the remaining 38 percent of the losses.

"APHIS knew predation by wild animals was significant in the cattle industry, but these statistics confirm how serious the problem really is," said Bobby Acord, deputy administrator of APHIS's Animal Damage Control Program.

Acord said 70 percent of the losses were in the western and mountain regions of the United States. Texas suffered the most damage, losing 3,000 cattle and 23,400 calves to predators.

"APHIS is concerned about wildlife and recognizes that it is a valuable resource," Acord said. "Unfortunately, wild animals sometimes prey on domestic animals and livestock. When that happens, states and producers request our help to control their losses."

In addition to assisting agricultural producers, federal ADC wildlife specialists help minimize threats to human health and safety and assist in the protection of threatened and endangered species.

This year's survey follows a 1991 USDA report showing $27.4 million in predation losses to sheep and goat producers in 1990.

Copies of the cattle survey are available for $5 each from NASS by calling 1-800-999-6779 weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. (EDT), or by writing to P.O. Box 1608, Rockville, Md. 20849-1608.

Robin Brown (301) 436-6573

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USDA ANNOUNCES GSM-102 EXPORT CREDIT GUARANTEES FOR SALES TO UKRAINE FOR FY 92

WASHINGTON, May 12—Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan today announced the allocation of $110 million in export credit guarantees for sales by U.S. exporters of U.S. agricultural commodities to Ukraine under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM-102). Of the $110 million, $55 million is available immediately, and $55 million will be made available after June 30.

Madigan said today's announcement allocates by commodity the $110 million in export credit guarantees announced by President Bush on May 6 in connection with sales to Ukraine.

The commodity breakdown for the $55 million being made available today is: $34.9 million for wheat and $13.5 million for feed grains (corn, barley, sorghum and oats).

These commodity-specific allocations represent guaranteed values relative to f.o.b. (free on board) or f.a.s. (free along side) values of any commodities sold, including any sold on c&f (cost and freight) or c.i.f. (cost, insurance and freight) basis. The commodity lines set forth above may be increased by an amount not to exceed $6.6 million in total to cover the additional value of the commodity sold on either a c&f or c.i.f. basis, point of ocean vessel discharge.

A U.S. exporter who applies for a USDA Commodity Credit Corporation export credit guarantee in connection with a sale made on a c&f or c.i.f. basis will be required to submit an estimate of the freight charges that will be incurred in connection with the sale. CCC will maintain a running tally of such estimated freight charges and, after the tally reaches $6.6 million, CCC will approve applications only for the f.o.b. or f.a.s. value of any sales even if the sale was made by the exporter on a c&f or c.i.f. basis.

At the time the remaining $55 million becomes available commodity allocations will be: $25.15 million for wheat, $20.25 million for feed grains (corn, barley, sorghum and oats) and $3.0 million for rice. In addition, $6.6 million will be allocated to cover sales made on a c&f or c.i.f. basis.

Madigan stressed that this commodity mix is subject to change based on the needs of the buyers.

GSM-102 export credit guarantees will be available to cover only the f.o.b. or f.a.s. value of any commodities that move on ocean going

vessels flagged in Ukraine. CCC will not provide coverage of the insurance component of c.i.f. sales.

Madigan reminded U.S. exporters that they must maintain records, in accordance with Section 7 C.F.R. 1493.100 of the GSM-102 regulations (56F.R.25998, June 6, 1991), demonstrating arrival of the commodities in the country of eligible destination.

Madigan also said that CCC will guarantee 100 percent of the principal on credit extended in connection with sales under this allocation, as well as provide interest coverage equal to the coupon equivalent yield of the 52-week U.S. Treasury bill auction average.

Based on the most recently announced 52-week Treasury bill rate, the applicable guarantee fee on the individual sales under this allocation will be determined, at the time CCC receives the exporter's application for payment guarantee, in accordance with FAS Program Announcement GSM-91-5 released on Sept. 27, 1991. Eligible interest will be determined as of the date of export and thereafter will be subject to adjustment as of each principal and/or interest due date and remain in effect through the next interest and/or principal due date.

U.S. exporters are reminded that all applications for export credit guarantees are subject to price review.

The bank qualified by CCC to issue letters of credit in connection with these guaranteed sales is the Ukraine Export Import Bank (Ukreximbank).

To be eligible for up to three-year coverage, all sales must be registered by Sept. 30, and exporters' contractual agreements must call for exportation not later than Nov. 30.

U.S. exporters registering for export credit guarantees must report to CCC the actual export period as provided in their credit sale. Exporters should not simply use the final export date listed under announcements authorizing the guarantees.

In accordance with 7 C.F.R. 1493.60(d) of the GSM-102 regulations, the final date of exportation to be shown on the payment guarantee will be one month after the contractual deadline for exporting.

U.S. exporters must apply to CCC for coverage before exports are completed and written applications must be accompanied by payment of an export credit guarantee fee.

For further information, call (202) 720-3224. For 24-hour information on Export Credits activities, call (202) 690-1621.

Rebecca Broeking (202) 720-3448

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USDA SETS HEARING ON PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES TO MILK ORDER BASE PRICE

WASHINGTON, May 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold a public hearing June 15 for interested dairy farmers, milk dealers and consumers to testify on proposals to replace the Minnesota-Wisconsin (M-W) price currently used to set minimum prices in all federal milk marketing orders.

Daniel D. Haley, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said the M-W price is the average of prices paid to farmers in the Minnesota-Wisconsin area for manufacturing grade milk (Grade B), or milk eligible for use only in manufactured milk products.

Although the M-W price has been widely accepted in the dairy industry as a good measure of changes in the supply and demand for milk nationally, a continuing decline in Grade B production is gradually making the M-W price less usable for formulating milk prices, Haley said.

The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. at the Holiday Inn-Eisenhower Metro, 2460 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, Va. 22314.

Proposals to be considered generally fall into four major categories: (1) other competitive pay prices—prices based on surveys of what plants actually pay producers; (2) product price formulas—raw milk prices based on prices of the products made from milk; (3) the cost of producing milk; and (4) the price support level. Several of the competitive pay prices have been proposed in conjunction with product price formulas.

Notice of the hearing will appear in the May 15 Federal Register. Copies are available from all market administrator offices and from USDA, AMS, Order Formulation Branch, Dairy Division, Room 2968-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456; telephone (202) 720-4829.

Alicia L. Ford (202) 720-8998

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USDA ANNOUNCES NO DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS FOR 1991-CROP ELS COTTON

WASHINGTON, May 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced no deficiency payments will be made under the 1991-crop extra long staple (ELS) cotton program since the national average market price exceeded the established target price of 99.6 cents per pound.

Keith Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation, said the national average price received by producers during the eight-month marketing period, August 1991 through March 1992, was $1.01 per pound.

Eligible ELS cotton producers receive a deficiency payment when the national average market price received by producers during the marketing period is below the target price.

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

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USDA RELEASES 1991 STATISTICS ON CAPTIVE SUPPLIES

WASHINGTON, May 13—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced the percentage of cattle slaughtered that were owned or controlled by the top 15 packer firms prior to slaughter (known as 'captive supplies') decreased in 1991 approximately 1.7 percentage points from 1990.

The 1991 commercial steer and heifer slaughter was 26.5 million head. The top 15 firms slaughtered 90 percent of that number, or 23.8 million head. Data showed the packers' captive supplies decreased from 18.9 percent in 1990 to 17.2 percent in 1991. On a monthly basis, the captive supplies ranged from a high of 22.4 percent in December 1991 to a low of 13.4 percent in May of that year.

During 1991, these firms contracted 12.7 percent and fed 4.5 percent. In 1990, they contracted 13.9 percent and fed 5.0 percent, or 18.9 percent of the total slaughter for that year. Marketing agreements are included in the percentage contracted by packer firms.

Captive supplies accounted for 18.7 percent of the top four firms' slaughter in 1991, a decrease of 1.4 percentage points from 1990. Of this amount, 14.0 percent was contracted and 4.7 percent fed.

Data collected by USDA's Packers and Stockyards Administration

showed that the percentage of captive supplies rose in 1989 then declined in both 1990 and 1991. The top 15 firms contracted and fed 19.29 percent of total slaughter for 1988, 22.39 percent in 1989, 18.89 percent in 1990, and 17.24 percent in 1991.

In 1988 the top four firms contracted and fed 20.51 percent of total slaughter, 24.94 percent in 1989, 20.14 percent in 1990, and 18.69 percent in 1991.

In the High Plains and Colorado marketing areas, 15.2 percent of the total slaughter for 1991 was contracted and 6.3 percent was fed, for a total of 21.5 percent. In 1990, 20.0 percent of total slaughter was contracted and 6.5 percent fed, for a total of 26.5 percent of total slaughter.

Nebraska and Iowa accounted for 7.5 percent of total slaughter fed and contracted, up 1.0 percentage point from 6.5 percent in 1990. The percentage contracted increased from 5.8 percent in 1990 to 7.1 percent in 1991. The amount fed, however, decreased from 0.7 percent in 1990 to 0.4 percent in 1991.

Sara K. Wright (202) 720-9528

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